APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims were amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [[1]] (1):

$$RO(C_2H_4O)nH \qquad [[1]]\ (1)$$

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; and n represents the average number of moles of oxirane groups added, ranging from 20 to 900, wherein the following requirements are satisfied:

(A) [Supposing] supposing that the straight line between the elution starting point and the elution end point on a chromatogram obtained by gel permeation chromatography is PbaseL, the total peak area above PbaseL is Parea, the height of the top of the maximum peak of refractive index: Ptop, with respect to PbaseL is PtopH, and the peak area between the point at which the height of the elution curve from the elution starting point toward Ptop, with respect to PbaseL is 1/5 of PtopH and the point at which the height of the elution curve from Ptop toward the elution end point, with respect to PbaseL is 1/5 of PtopH is PareaM, Parea and PareaM satisfy the following relationship:

$$PareaM/Parea \geqq 0.85$$

; and

(B) [When] when thin layer chromatography is effected by development with a 85 : 15 (by volume) mixture of chloroform and methanol, followed by color development with iodine and measurement of the purity of various spots by a densitometer, main spots having Rf values falling within the range of from 0.2 to 0.8 have a purity of not less than 98%.

4. (Twice Amended) The oxirane derivative according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein R in the general formula [[I]] (1) is CH_3.

5. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative as in Claim 1 or Claim 2, [wherein the water content in the reaction system where] which comprises reacting the compound ROH (in which R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group) [and] with oxirane [react with each other is] at a temperature of 50 to 130°C and in a reaction system containing not more than 5 ppm water.

6. (Amended) The process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative according to Claim 5, wherein R in the general formula [[1]] (1) is CH_3.

7. (Twice Amended) An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [[2]] (2) prepared [from] by aminating or carboxylating an oxirane derivative of formula (1) having a purity as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 2 [as a starting material]:

$$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y \qquad [[2]]\ (2)$$

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

8. (Amended) The oxirane derivative according to Claim 3, wherein R in the general formula [[1]] (1) is CH_3.

9. (amended) A process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative as defined in Claim 3, [wherein the water content in the reaction system where] which comprises reacting the compound ROH (in which R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group) [and the] with oxirane [react with each other is] at a temperature of 50 to 130°C and in a reaction system containing not more than 5 ppm water.

10. (Amended) The process for the preparation of an oxirane derivative according to Claim 9, wherein R in the general formula [[1]] (1) is CH_3.

11. (Amended) An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [[2]] (2) prepared [from] by aminating or carboxylating an oxirane derivative of formula (1) having a purity as defined in Claim 3 [as a starting material]:

$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y$ [[2]] (2)

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

12. (Amended) An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [[2]] (2) prepared [from] by aminating or carboxylating an oxirane derivative of formula (1) having a purity as defined in Claim 4 [as a starting material]:

$RO(C_2H_4O)n\text{-}Xp\text{-}Y$ [[2]] (2)

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

13. (Amended) An oxirane derivative represented by the following general formula [[2]] (2) prepared [from] by aminating or carboxylating an oxirane derivative of formula (1) having a purity as defined in Claim 8 [as a starting material]:

$RO(C_2H_4O)n-Xp-Y$ [[2]] (2)

wherein R represents a C_{1-7} hydrocarbon group; n represents an integer of from 20 to 900; X represents a C_{1-3} hydrocarbon group or $-CO(CH_2)q-$ (in which q is an integer of from 2 to 4); Y represents an amino group or carboxyl group; and p represents 0 or 1.

New claims 14 and 15 were added.